



Mariano Martinez, in 1991, dressed as Emillano Zapata with the original margarita machine inducted into the Smithsonian Museum of American History
 photo provided by Mariano Martinez

Living Their Heritage

By Monica Issitt

EVERY FRISCO FAMILY has their own story to tell and three men in particular also tell part of Frisco's story of pride, growth and change. Through honoring their heritage, dedication to their families and incredibly hard work, they encapsulate what it means to be Latino in a suburb of Dallas, Texas.

Santiago Arevalo moved to Frisco six years ago after watching the city grow out of its small-town shell and the suburban sprawl spread north. This was during the '80s while he was coaching select soccer teams in Plano, which he did for several years, coaching many recreational and select teams to state championships. As a Columbian, Mr. Arevalo holds soccer very close to his heart and considers it a very important part of his heritage. One of his life goals is to share this legacy with North Americans by showing kids that it is possible to have a happy family,

successful work life and an accomplished soccer career — you really can have it all. He knows all of this is possible, because he, himself, has worked to see all of this come to fruition in his own life.

While attending Andes University in Bogotá, he played professional soccer with Santa Fe, a top Columbian team, and then moved to France after graduating where he continued to play soccer professionally for three years. After a torn ACL ended Mr. Arevalo's soccer career, he then "decided to move to the U.S., get a master's degree and settle down." He did earn his graduate degree from MIT, and he did marry, but his life is more accomplished and full than most people, so "settling down" may not describe it accurately. After graduating, he worked for several top companies in the Dallas area and now works for Oracle as a solutions architect.

Mr. Arevalo still devotes much of his free time as a volunteer soccer coach and says his favorite "hobby" is coaching for FC Dallas, Frisco. He has always enjoyed sharing his passion for the sport with children and is the founder of the Frisco Athletic Club. In 1993, after his team won the select league championship, Mr. Arevalo was honored by Mayor Mike Simpson when the mayor declared March 24, 1993 as "FC Dallas Frisco Gold '93 Boys Soccer Team Day." In a town known for soccer, this was a bright moment for Mr. Arevalo and his players.

It would be difficult to find a more proud father than Mr. Arevalo. He and his wife of seven years, Liliana, share three daughters, Anika, Natasha and Tatiana. Mr. Arevalo would love to spend all day talking about these three--about Anika's attending medical school at the University of Miami and being the only